

CHAPTER NO. 196

HOUSE BILL NO. 903

By Representative Harwell

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1302

By Senator Fowler

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, relative to hazing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-2-120.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "hazing" means any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee, on or off LEA property, by one (1) student acting alone or with others which is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student's mental or physical health or safety. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization.

(b) The governing body of each LEA shall adopt a written policy prohibiting hazing by any student or organization operating under the sanction of the LEA. The policy shall be distributed or made available to each student at the beginning of each school year. During the first month of each new school year, time shall be set aside to specifically discuss the policy and its ramifications as a criminal offense and the penalties that may be imposed by the LEA.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 7, 2001


JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 10th day of May 2001


DON CONQUIST, GOVERNOR